

grounds, but when they returned this year, conditons were altered, the reservoir being filled to the brim. This compelled the birds to hunt for a different feeding ground and in hunting about they found my pond.—
JOHN E. THAYER, *Lancaster, Mass.*

Ocracoke Water Bird Notes.—On Royal Shoal, a small island belonging to the North Carolina Audubon Society, and situated some eight or nine miles northwest of Ocracoke, we found the following birds nesting: Laughing Gull, Common Tern and Oyster-catcher. The Gulls were in the midst of their laying, as were the Common Terns. Three pairs of Oyster-catchers inhabited the island. One nest was found with the eggs about ready to hatch, and one pair had young nearly grown, two being the complement in each case. The Black Skimmers were preparing their nesting hollows, but had not yet begun to lay. The Royal Terns seem to have almost deserted this island — where they were so numerous four or five years ago — for islands farther to the eastward, and the Least Terns are mostly back on the beaches.

The total number of eggs of the Laughing Gull and Common Tern was something over two hundred.

A flock of twenty Cormorants left the 'lump' as we approached.

A small petrel, presumably a Wilson's, was seen flying up the sound on May 23, after a rather stormy night. On the same date we found Black Skimmers very plentiful, though not yet laying, on the island in the middle of Ocracoke Inlet, with a few Common Terns nesting. Common Tern, Least Tern and Oyster-catcher were all, apparently, nesting on the beach, the Common Terns mostly on the south side of the Inlet. Young of the Oyster-catcher were seen, from a quarter grown up to the flying stage, in each case in broods of two.

This island was almost completely swept by the storm tide of the previous night, which may have destroyed a good many Tern eggs. There were many more birds around than the number of nests warranted. The few nests found were all on the small, unswept area, of course.—
H. H. BRIMLEY,
Raleigh, N. C.

Oreortyx in Idaho.—Notes appearing in 'The Auk' of April, 1911 and 1912, refer to the range of *Oreortyx* being extended eastward to near the Idaho-Oregon line,—specifically, Vale, Oregon. My observation is that not only has it been long established in southwest Idaho, but that its range extends at least 125 miles beyond the Oregon line.

Four years ago a covey of eight along Indian Creek several miles northwest of Nampa was wiped out by hunters. Two years ago a number were taken in the Boise bottoms eight miles north of this place. For ten years more they have been common in the Owyhee foothills some forty miles south of Nampa; in fact, so numerous are they that hunters from here regularly visit that section at the opening of the shooting season, two guns on one occasion killing 44 Quail in two hours.